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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/530,481

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Junji Hoshiba

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EXAMINER

PARSLEY, DAVID J

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/530,481	Applicant(s) HOSHIBA ET AL.	
	Examiner DAVID J. PARSLEY	Art Unit 3643	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 June 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 April 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Detailed Action

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6-30-08 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,010,847 to Braden in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,529,575 to Schalk and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,427,058 to Chung.

Referring to claim 1, Braden discloses an artificial nipple for an experimental animal comprising, a nipple - at 46 or 72, made of a material and configured to be elastically deformable such that an interior volume of the nipple is changed when the nipple is sucked by an animal -

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see figures 4-7 and 12 and column 3 lines 22-38 and column 4 lines 3-20, a replaceable duct - at 18 or 70, located in the nipple - see figures 1-12, and a structure - at 54 or 92, that prevents liquid from accumulating in portions of the nipple - see figures 1-12, wherein the structure that prevents liquid from accumulating includes at least one of a separate elastic member and an elastic member formed integrally with an outer wall of the nipple - see figures 1-12, column 3 lines 22-38 and column 4 lines 3-20. Braden does not disclose liquid accumulates only in the nipple tip and the duct. Schalk does disclose the liquid accumulates only in the nipple tip - at the front of 19 and the duct - at 18 - see figure 6. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to take the device of Braden and add the liquid accumulating in the nipple tip and the duct of Schalk, so as to allow for the flow of liquid in the device to be controlled. Braden as modified by Schalk does not disclose the duct is located entirely within the nipple, the duct including an outlet end located within the nipple to define the nipple tip portion between the outlet end of the duct and the nipple. Chung does disclose the duct - at 20, is located entirely within the nipple - at 10,30, the duct including an outlet end located within the nipple to define the nipple tip portion - at the portion of 30 before item 20, between the outlet end of the duct and the nipple - see figure 6. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to take the device of Braden as modified by Schalk and add the duct and nipple of Chung, so as to allow for liquid to be accurately and quickly dispensed only when desired by an animal using the device.

Referring to claims 3, 6 and 12, Braden as modified by Schalk and Chung further discloses - at 41, provided in a joint part with a feeding bottle - at 10,18,26, - see figures 3 and 6 of Schalk. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to take the

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device of Braden as modified by Schalk and Chung and add the check valve of Schalk, so as to allow for the flow of liquid in the device to be controlled.

Referring to claim 4, Braden discloses an artificial nipple for an experimental animal comprising, a feeding bottle – at 14, a nipple - at 46 or 72 separate from and connectable to the feeding bottle – see figures 1-12, made of a material and configured to be elastically deformable such that an interior volume of the nipple is changed when the nipple is sucked by an animal - see figures 4-7 and 12 and column 3 lines 22-38 and column 4 lines 3-20, a replaceable duct - at 18 or 70, located in the nipple - see figures 1-12, and a structure – at 54 or 92, that prevents liquid from accumulating in portions of the nipple – see figures 1-12, wherein the structure that prevents liquid from accumulating includes at least one of a separate elastic member and an elastic member formed integrally with an outer wall of the nipple – see figures 1-12, column 3 lines 22-38 and column 4 lines 3-20, a replaceable duct - at 18, in the nipple - see figures 10-12. Braden does not disclose liquid accumulates only in the nipple tip and the duct. Schalk does disclose the liquid accumulates only in the nipple tip – at the front of 19 and the duct – at 18 – see figure 6. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to take the device of Braden and add the liquid accumulating in the nipple tip and the duct of Schalk, so as to allow for the flow of liquid in the device to be controlled. Braden as modified by Schalk does not disclose the duct is located entirely within the nipple, the duct including an outlet end located within the nipple to define the nipple tip portion between the outlet end of the duct and the nipple. Chung does disclose the duct – at 20, is located entirely within the nipple - at 10,30, the duct including an outlet end located within the nipple to define the nipple tip portion – at the portion of 30 before item 20, between the outlet end of the duct and the nipple – see figure 6.

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Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to take the device of Braden as modified by Schalk and add the duct and nipple of Chung, so as to allow for liquid to be accurately and quickly dispensed only when desired by an animal using the device.

Referring to claim 10, Braden as modified by Schalk and Chung further discloses the feeding bottle comprising therein a replaceable tube – at 14 – see figures 1-2 of Braden.

Referring to claims 7, 15 and 17, Braden as modified by Schalk and Chung further discloses a mechanism by which liquid stops flowing when an experimental animal drinks a predetermined amount or a certain amount of the liquid and thereby the internal pressure of the feeding bottle becomes negative – see 34 in figures 3 and 6 of Schalk. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to take the device of Braden as modified by Schalk and Chung and add the mechanism for stopping flow of liquid of Schalk, so as to allow for the flow of liquid in the device to be controlled.

Referring to claim 8, Braden as modified by Schalk and Chung further discloses a mechanism by which the experimental animal is allowed to voluntarily drink the liquid again upon application of a pressure from outside the feeding bottle after the liquid stops flowing when the experimental animal drinks the predetermined amount or the certain amount of the liquid and thereby the internal pressure of the feeding bottle becomes negative – see at 10,34 in figures 3 and 6 of Schalk. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to take the device of Braden as modified by Schalk and Chung and add the mechanism for stopping liquid flow of Schalk, so as to allow for the flow of liquid in the device to be controlled.

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Referring to claims 5 and 11, Braden as modified by Schalk and Chung further discloses the tube is marked with calibrations for measurement and/or a movable mark – see at 16 in figure 2 of Braden.

Referring to claims 9 and 20, Braden as modified by Schalk and Chung further discloses the nipple is attached to a feeding bottle – at 14, including a replaceable tube – at 14,18, – see figures 1-2 of Braden and calibrations for measurement and/or a movable mark – see at 16 in figure 2 of Braden.

Referring to claims 13-14, Braden as modified by Schalk and Chung further discloses a check valve – at 41, provided in a joint part with a feeding bottle – at 10,18,26, – see figures 3 and 6 of Schalk. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to take the device of Braden as modified by Schalk and Chung and add the check valve of Schalk, so as to allow for the flow of liquid in the device to be controlled.

Referring to claims 16 and 18, Braden as modified by Schalk and Chung further discloses a mechanism by which liquid stops flowing when an experimental animal drinks a predetermined amount or a certain amount of the liquid and thereby the internal pressure of the feeding bottle becomes negative – see 34 in figures 3 and 6 of Schalk. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to take the device of Braden as modified by Schalk and Chung and add the mechanism for stopping flow of liquid of Schalk, so as to allow for the flow of liquid in the device to be controlled.

Referring to claim 19, Braden as modified by Schalk and Chung further discloses a mechanism by which the experimental animal is allowed to voluntarily drink the liquid again upon application of a pressure from outside the feeding bottle after the liquid stops flowing when

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the experimental animal drinks the predetermined amount or the certain amount of the liquid and thereby the internal pressure of the feeding bottle becomes negative – see at 10,34 in figures 3 and 6 of Schalk. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to take the device of Braden as modified by Schalk and Chung and add the mechanism for stopping liquid flow of Schalk, so as to allow for the flow of liquid in the device to be controlled.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 3-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAVID J. PARSLEY whose telephone number is (571)272-6890. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8am to 4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Poon can be reached on (571) 272-6891. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David J Parsley/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3643